

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6992

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010

EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Baalu Thiru Thalikkottai Rajuthevar; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo; Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun; Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre; Jeyadural Shri S. R.; Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao; Mahajan Smt. Sumitra; Rajesh Shri M. B.; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a): whether India has the highest number of sexually abused children in the world;
- (b): if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;
- (c): whether the Indian penal Code (IPC) does not spell out the definition of child abuse as a specific offence, and neither does it offer legal remedy and punishment for "child abuse";
- (d): if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e): whether the Government proposes to take steps to ensure legal remedy and punishment for 'child abuse' and 'child sexual abuse' and
- (f): if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a)&(b): No such conclusion can be drawn in the absence of comparative data across the countries. According to a National Study on Child Abuse conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2007 approximately 53.22% children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse.

(c)to(f): Although Indian Penal Code does not have a definition of 'child abuse' as a specific offence, there are provisions in the legislation which provide punishment for the offences against children, such as, rape of a female child below the age of 16 years, procurement of minor girls, selling and buying of minors for prostitution and selling of obscene books and objects etc to persons below the age of 20 years.

The children in need of care and protection, which also include victims of abuse and exploitation, are also addressed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000.

Laws are reviewed from time to time for amendments, if required. Wide ranging consultations have also been held to develop a comprehensive legislation for prevention of all offences against children, including sexual abuse.